



August 28, 2006

Kilogram of crack & cocaine nets a 20-year prison sentence

A federal judge today sentenced **John Barnes**, 30, of Providence, to 20 years in prison for trafficking in a kilogram of cocaine – nearly 900 grams of it in the form of crack cocaine.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. The 20-year sentence was mandatory under federal drug-trafficking statutes.

In January, a jury found Barnes guilty of possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine and powder cocaine. During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers said that, on May 13, 2005, Providence and Johnston detectives executed a state-authorized search warrant at a house linked to Barnes on Watcher Avenue, Providence. They seized 892 grams of crack cocaine and 151 grams of cocaine in powder form. They also found drug trafficking materials, including a digital scale.

Johnston Police had earlier that day followed Barnes as he drove in his car from the house on Watcher Avenue into Johnston, where they stopped and detained him.

The trial in January was Barnes' second on the cocaine charges. The first ended in a mistrial in December 2005 when the jury failed to reach a verdict.

-30-

Contact: 401-709-5032

Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov

Find news and information on the U.S. Attorney's Web site:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ri/>